

CLAIMS:

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A built-in element for a cooling tower, the built-in element being made of a plastic material and, in its assembled state in the cooling tower, contacts water circulating within the cooling tower wherein the built-in element is equipped with an additive with antibacterial activity.

2. The built-in element according to claim 1, wherein the additive with antibacterial activity is embedded in the plastic material of which the built-in element is made in such a manner that the additive is leaching to the surface and released therefrom into the water contacting built-in element.

3. The built-in element according to claim 2, wherein the built-in element comprises at least one plastic part made by one of extrusion and injection molding and in that the additive with antibacterial activity is added to the plastic material prior to extrusion or injection molding.

4. The built-in element according to claim 3, wherein the additive with antibacterial activity is added to the plastic material in the form of a dry granulate or powder.

5. The built-in element according to claim 3, wherein the additive with antibacterial activity is added to the plastic material in the form of a liquid or paste.

6. The built-in element according to claim 1, wherein the additive with antibacterial activity is applied to an exterior of the plastic material of which the built-in element is made in such a manner that the additive is released therefrom into the water contacting built-in element.

7. The built-in element according to claim 6, wherein the additive with anti-bacterial activity is applied in the form of a liquid to the plastic material of which the built-in element is made, and is dried thereafter.

8. The built-in element according to claim 7, wherein the additive with anti-bacterial activity is applied by one of immersion and painting of the plastic material of which the built-in element is made.

9. The built-in element according to claim 1, wherein the quantity and solubility of the additive with antibacterial activity are suitably adjusted such that effective concentrations of the additive with antibacterial activity are released into the water for several months or longer.

10. The built-in element according to claim 3, wherein the permeability of the plastic material of which the built-in element is made is suitably adjusted such that effective concentrations of the additive with anti-bacterial activity are released into the water for at least several months.

11. The built-in element according to claim 1, wherein the additive with anti-bacterial activity is a single bactericidal agent.

12. The built-in element, according to claim 1, wherein the additive is a mixture of several bactericidal agents.

13. The built-in element according to claim 10, wherein the additive is embedded in a carrier substance with a suitable solubility in water.

14. The built-in element according to claim 1, wherein the plastic material of which the built-in element is made comprises a thermoplastic material.

15. The built-in element according to claim 12, wherein the thermoplastic material comprises one of the group consisting of polypropylene (PP), polyethylene (PE), acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) and polyvinylchloride (PVC).

16. The built-in element according to claim 1, wherein the plastic material of which the built-in element is made comprises a duroplastic material.

17. The built-in element according to claim 1, wherein the built-in element is a cooling tower fill.

18. The built-in element according to claim 1, wherein the built-in element is a mist eliminator.

19. The built-in element according to claim 1, wherein the built-in element is an air inlet element.